

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

Serial No. 09/918,438  
Docket No. 234824/00

8

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-11, 13, and 17-20 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 12 and 14-16 are canceled.

It is noted that Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

The Examiner objects to claims 6 and 13. Applicants believe that the above claim amendments address the Examiner's concern for claim 6. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this objection to claim 6 and 13.

Claims 14 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Nakajima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,522,803 B1). Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakajima et al., further in view of Okano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,449,074 B1). Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita (U.S. Patent No. 6,426,817 B1), further in view of Nakajima et al.

Cancellation of these claims renders this rejection moot.

**FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-11, 13, and 17-20, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

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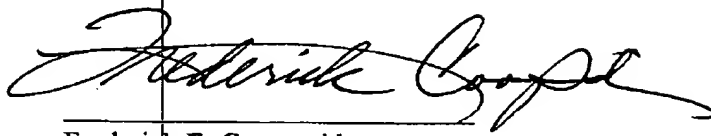
9

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

Date:

3/28/05



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CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I certify that I transmitted via facsimile to (703) 872-9306 this Amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 to Examiner C. Leung on March 28, 2005.



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